

## **Alaska FASD Partnership Steering Committee Minutes**

### **March 11, 2015**

**Present:** Vickie Tinker, Deb Evensen, Mike Jeffery, Jenn Wagaman, Lakota Holman, Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Adam Rutherford, Clayton Holland, Monica Charles-Leinberger, Teri Tibbett

**Approval of Agenda.** Approved.

**Approval of Minutes 2.11.15.** Approved.

#### **Vancouver FASD Conference Review**

Mike, Vickie, Jen, and Deb Evensen attended, as did members of the Anchorage Diagnostic team. Jen's feedback: Great conference. Attended a session on the Canadian Diagnostic Criteria. They are removing "growth" as a measure and changing how they measure sensory issues. She got to network with the Anchorage team quite a bit. The Wednesday pre-conference was interesting. About 40 roundtable discussions taking place, each giving one "most important" take-home from their discussion. Mike's feedback: Enjoyed the FASD and the Law Day (Tuesday pre-conference.) Was greatly impressed by Lori Vitale Cox's information on diagnosis and interventions in rural New Brunswick. He was able to follow up with her later. She is doing some excellent work in a very rural area. Mike, along with Kay Kelly and Terese Grant, presented at the main conference with Yukon Senator, Ryan Leef. He attended the FASD/Trauma session and got some good info from that. He was able to get some information from the Asante Center on screening youth in custody for FASDs. He's not aware of a screening tool for incarcerated adults. (Apparently, there is a screen for general mental health issues that may be useful.) Vickie's feedback: Vickie also liked the FASD/Trauma session and the FASD and the Law Day. She will send to Teri notes from one presenter on "FASD and Youth Diversions."

#### **Member Updates**

Adam replied to Mike's discussion that it is a challenge finding a screening tool for adults. Currently, Department of Corrections has an RFP out that is looking for a Rural ReEntry and FASD Coordinator. The contractor will help identify an FASD Screening Tool, provide education/training to DOC staff, help identify appropriate interventions during incarceration and reentry, and develop rural reentry strategies and practices.

Jeanne reported that Dan Dubovsky has talked about a "Life Screening Tool" and this may also be useful. She also reported that the FASD Workgroup of the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education is continuing to meet. Contact Jeanne or the GCDSE for details. The SESA workgroup has sent out ~4600 surveys to educators and para-educators on FASD knowledge and needs. Around 1100 responses have been received.

Clayton reported that the Kenai Peninsula School District has a new superintendent, Sean Dusek, who was the Assistant Superintendent. He's very supportive of FASD efforts in the schools. The parent support groups are going well. He and Deb Evensen presented at the Special Ed conference last month (as did Jeanne).

Monica reported that she has a new job as guardian ad litem for the Bethel region. She recently provided some FASD training at the local college.

Discussion among the group about Intervention being a valuable Prevention tool.

Jen reported that she is going to Barrow on March 23-24 to do "FASD Into Action" training. She has heard of a possible diagnostic team coming together in Nome.

Vickie reported that the Kenai conference on FASD and Trauma (April 2-3) is coming together. She teleconferenced with presenters today to draft an agenda for the two day conference.

Teri discussed the "Justice Re-Investment" concept and the momentum it is gaining in Juneau. The upshot is that money is better spent on intervention, services, and treatment rather than building new prisons.

Jeanne announced the "Reducing Recidivism Through Successful Reentry" conference taking place in Anchorage March 31-April 1.

**Next meeting:** April 8, 2015.